

**Planning & Development Committee**  
**Public Hearing: 2/20/13**

**Testimony Concerning HB 6311**

**AA Prohibiting Municipalities from Adopting Breed Specific Dangerous Dog Ordinances**

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I would like to express my support of HB 6311, An Act Prohibiting Municipalities from Adopting Breed Specific Dangerous Dog Ordinances. It is unfortunate that myths regarding dog breeds persist, but this bill provides an excellent opportunity for Connecticut to help safeguard the rights of well-behaved "bully breeds" and the people who love them.

I am sure the Committee is aware that the behavior of pit bull-type dogs, like many other living creatures, is shaped by early handling and training. Tragically, bully breeds have historically been bred and raised to be vicious. But the many lucky dogs who escape this fate have the opportunity to show us their true, loving personalities. The fact is, the bulldogs and pit bulls I've met have been among the sweetest, and most gentle, loving dogs I've known. Bully breeds, by their true charm, have attracted a devoted following of people who make great sacrifices to provide good homes for them - and love them dearly.

For a variety of reasons, the population of bully breeds in CT has grown out of proportion to other types of dogs. As the dog-loving community struggles 24/7 to find homes for these gentle animals while racing against the euthanasia clock, the last obstacle they need to face is a town ordinance that limits the presence of pit bulls, or any dog vaguely resembling one. Such ordinances would constitute pure discrimination and ultimately punish those who have generously opened their hearts to a homeless animal.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I hope you will continue to support this important piece of legislation.